



WEEKLY UPDATE

NEWPORT CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY
NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT



NECDF Chemical Disposal Operations November 01, 2005

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Newport Milestones/Facts

Milestone Dates

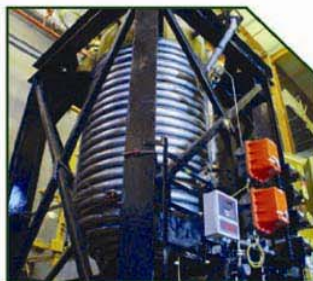
- 1962-1968: Newport manufactures all chemical agent VX for U.S. defense stockpile
- 1999: Army awards systems contract to Parsons Corporation of Pasadena, Calif. to design, construct and operate NECDF -
- 2003: Construction complete
- 2005: Agent destruction operations begin May 5, 2005



Steel Container Transport



Chemical Agent Transfer System



Neutralization Reactor



Carbon Filtration Units

Using neutralization technology, NECDF has safely destroyed:

Approximately 55,356 pounds of chemical agent VX (approximately 6,571 gallons)

On Saturday October 29, 2005, at approximately 5:13 a.m., during normal neutralization operations within the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, approximately 490 gallons of caustic wastewater (hydrolysate-a byproduct of the neutralization process) leaked onto the floor inside a sealed area of the facility. The leak occurred from the recirculation loop, which is part of the neutralization reactor system. The hydrolysate was contained within floor sumps and other secondary containment features. NECDF paused reactor operations following identification of the leakage. There were no injuries and the hydrolysate was totally contained within the facility. The wastewater has been pumped from the floor sumps and returned to hydrolysate storage tanks. This was followed by a flush of the floor and replacement of air lines used to support entries in the containment area. We are currently investigating the cause of the contained leak.

Empty agent containers continue to be processed through the Ton Container Decontamination System. Fifty containers have currently been processed through the system.

Continuing the Legacy of Safety

The Newport team continues to build upon their legacy of safety—from chemical agent manufacture and shipment in the 1960s, to nearly 40 years of safe storage, to the start of agent destruction operations. By safely eliminating Newport's chemical agent stockpile, the workers at NECDF will remove the risk posed by continued storage of the stockpile. The United States will be safer due to the efforts of the Newport team.

- Our top priority remains the safety of the surrounding communities, site personnel and environment.
- During start-up, deliberate actions and thorough review of data will be conducted to verify performance before increasing production rates.
- Processing areas are ventilated and maintained under negative pressure. Air drawn from these areas is controlled, monitored and filtered through carbon units before being released into the environment in order to meet state and federal clean air standards.
- Monitoring air within the depot is a vital part of processing chemical agent. More than 70 chemical agent monitors are placed in and around the facility, with approximately 4,000 samples taken daily.

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Newport stockpile
consists of:



Liquid chemical
agent VX housed in
steel containers

CREATING A SAFER TOMORROW